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Sixty-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 60 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children; promotion and protection of the rights of children

Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland: draft resolution

Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the Optional Protocols to the Convention,[2]

Welcoming the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in examining the progress made by States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto in implementing the obligations undertaken in the Convention, and the Optional Protocols,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3]

Noting the proposal of the Committee regarding its working methods,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child[4] and to decision taken by the Committee at its forty-eighth session[5] to request approval from the General Assembly to meet in parallel chambers so as to facilitate the effective and timely implementation of its responsibilities under article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] and articles 8 and 12 of its Optional Protocols;[2]

2. *Notes*, while welcoming the entry into force of the Optional Protocols, that a backlog of more than eighty reports exists, related to the submission by States parties of their initial reports under the Optional Protocols in conformity with their

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.
[3] A/63/160.
[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/63/41).
[5] A/63/160, annex.

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obligations, and that, if this backlog is not addressed, it will impede the ability of the Committee to consider reports in a timely manner;

3. *Expresses its appreciation*, in light of this temporary and exceptional increase in the number of reports before the Committee, for the efforts of the Committee to reform its working methods so as to consider the reports of States parties in a timely manner, including its proposal, as an exceptional and temporary measure, to work in two chambers, taking due account of equitable geographical distribution, for a period of two years, in order to clear the backlog of reports;

4. *Decides*, as an exceptional and temporary measure, to authorize the Committee to meet in parallel chambers, of nine members each, for ten working days during each of its three regular sessions and for five working days during the weeks of its pre-sessional meetings between October 2009 and January 2011;

5. *Requests* the Committee, when sitting in chambers, to take due account of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance among Committee members;

6. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto and to give serious consideration to the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

7. *Urges* the Committee to intensify its efforts to review its working methods in order to further enhance the efficiency and quality of its proceedings, with the aim of achieving timely consideration of reports submitted by States parties, and requests the Committee to review and assess its progress made after two years, taking into account the wider context of treaty body reform.